

Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Vol. 3

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No. 2

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Public Libraries

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The Planning of Small Library Buildings

Oscar Bluemner, Architect, Chicago

II. The Book Room

In the introduction we found the architect in charge of three parties—the books, the librarian, and the public, enumerating them in such a manner as to place them according to their rank in importance. The *books* make the library; its building is a house for the books first and last, a repository, a conservatory, and whatever conveniences the building may otherwise afford librarian and reader, its noblest inmates are the authors in their imperishable frames, be they made of humble or costly material. Some one has remarked that to loiter among good books is to enjoy the noblest company, to be face to face with their authors and in touch with what is best in them.

As man is wont to express his sentiments in form and color as well as in words, the art of bookbinding has a deeper meaning than it might seem at first glance. For the gilt, and color, and solidity the binder gives to a book pays not only a tribute to its contents and author, but impresses the eye of the buyer and reader with its intrinsic value. The very same is true of the library *building* which is but a second cover to a book or collection of books, just as man's houses are his wider garments.

If I were to build a book room on ample lines and in a style dignified and representative of the character and

purpose of the structure, regardless of space and cost, I should make a large, lofty hall with windows starting high above the floor and on wide intervals, shedding a soft and solemn light, as one finds in such rooms; I should give it a beautifully painted and decorated ceiling, the colors of which were resplendent in the polished bookcases and floor, and I should arrange the books in long straight rows along the walls, under the high windows; I should leave bare spaces between the various bookcases and decorate those backgrounds with exquisite paintings, adorn them with works of the sculptors or busts of authors. When I found that I could add nothing more I should call that an ideal book room, both useful and beautiful; surely not too good for its purpose. Such a hall would bespeak the character hidden in every book room—a gallery of authors. Or is it a visionary dream we have indulged in? The reality is found in the library of the Vatican in Rome and in many another European hall preserving costly collections of books. Neither is it a purposeless speculation to picture to one's imagination a superb book room, for proper luxury has its moral lesson, and the impossibility of realizing an ideal as a whole will the more instigate us to attain part of its ends, when toiling with the hard and practical problems of an economical and sober nature. For such are those we have to deal with in the book rooms of our present buildings.

The modern democratic process of

evolution is inseparable from economical tendencies. This process has dissected the interior of the old libraries, combining as they did in one the reading book, administration, delivery, and reference departments into as many separate rooms, and has thus created the book room or stack in the sense of today. The book room again is now almost universally arranged on the same economical principle of saving space, which has brought forth the floor-case system. The alcove plan, which has become obsolete and incompatible with further progress, may be regarded as an intermediate stage between the old simple hall and the modern complicated plan; although for very small libraries a similar combination of book and reading rooms is recently advocated; the idea being to surround a book room on three sides with wall cases, leaving high windows between their tops and the ceiling and to give the whole rest of floor space of the room which is all open toward the general interior (on its fourth or inner side) to the reference tables, the people having full access to this open-shelf book room. However attractive this idea looks, it will be found impracticable and erroneous when the library grows at an unexpected rate and the book room must needs discard its public and reference character to make room for a floor-case system or even be extended.

The present problem then of the book room for a small library is contained in the following conditions: sufficient square area for a floor-case system that will hold the existing number of books and the annual acquisitions for a number of years to come without necessitating extension of building; the possibility of the latter, however, provided for at once; shortest distance between the farthest book and delivery desk; good light, especially in the ends of the aisles most removed from the windows; perfect natural ventilation; connection with public department, and harmonious relation to the general interior of the building.

The now generally adopted practice of making the floor-cases for ordinary books 16 ft. deep and 13 ft. 6 in. long without any projecting lower portion for ledges; to make the aisles 2 ft. 6 in. or at most 3 ft. wide, and to arrange them on parallel lines is so much in accordance with convenience and utmost economy that it may be regarded as fundamental. Especially the radial system of bookcases and aisles, however ingeniously it has been applied to circular and polygonal rooms up to date and mostly on paper, cannot answer any of the above conditions.

The degree of economy of space resulting from the parallel floor-case system is surprising to the architect who makes such calculations for the first time. A closet-like room only 3 ft. 10 in. wide and 13 ft. 6 in. deep with a door on one end and a window on the opposite with two bookcases placed against its side walls, will hold from 1500 to 2000 books. (It is supposed that the wall case is 8 ft. deep, that a double bookcase is 16 ft. deep and 7 ft. or 7 ft. 6 in. high, and contains 7 or 8 shelves in each of its five tiers on either side, and that 8 or 9 ft. go to the lineal foot of a shelf.) If another (double) case is placed in center of that room with an aisle on either side and consequently the former width of 3 ft. 10 in. increased to 7 ft. 10 in. it will hold from 3000 to 4000 books or a number with which small libraries very frequently start or go to occupy a new building. Those simple problems could be demonstrated to yield still greater economical advantages with regard to the storing capacity of very small rooms, if a height of 15 ft. were taken into consideration and a second floor of cases were established on top of the ground floor. However, there will hardly ever be a necessity for taking such means in order to store 5000 or 6000 books in rooms of which the former is hardly wider than a linen closet and the latter not wide enough for a decent hall or bedroom in a private house. The architect, therefore, who calculates the size of a book room

for a number of volumes not exceeding 8000, finds himself confronted by another side, that is the architectural side of his problem. For, even if no provision for the growth of a small library were to be made, the book room being after all the most important part in the building, should not be out of all harmonious proportion to the other parts of the interior. Indeed, no visitor of a public library would be impressed with the dignity of such an institution on seeing a book room not more than 11 ft. wide, although it may contain 5000 books. Here now the necessity for providing sufficient floor space to receive all the growth during the next 10 or 15 years relieves us of further doubt; it lays before the librarian the question: At what annual rate will the stock grow? and the answer on this will next settle the point with the building committee and the architect: How many volumes shall the book room, as planned, finally hold, and when and how shall it be extended after that? Whatever the considerations may be in every case—some general agreement as to rate of increase is at least very desirable—it is appropriate for the designer to set down a space from 23 ft. to 26 ft. wide and 16 ft. or 16 ft. 6 in. deep for the book room. The application of these measurements, including an area of about 400 ft. square, may be found so generally useful in the planning of a small library that they may be taken for a *standard*. Such a room will hold two wall cases, five double cases and its six aisles will be connected by a cross passage between the windows and the ends or sides of the cases, while the opposite side of the room adjoining the librarian's desk, is all open. Its capacity is between 9500 and 12,000 books, a number that most small institutions will not reach before 10 or 15 years of existence.

The book room should be so planned that the aisles run from the librarian's desk, which stands on a center line with the former, and in front of its open side toward the exterior wall and parallel with the solid side walls against which

the wall cases are placed. Thus the librarian or assistant will have nothing but straight lines between each book and his desk, as well as the delivery counter, and therefore when taking books from the shelves to the latter will have to traverse the shortest distance of the room in order to reach the farthest book. This is very important, as it not only saves the librarian time and labor, but furthermore permits him to constantly and easily oversee the whole book room from his desk and the space surrounding it, an advantage which becomes the more conspicuous the more the open shelf system grows in favor both with librarian and public. Furthermore, the former's desk which, as it must be located in the center of the building, thereby taking the place farthest distant from the windows, stands in the direction of the light and not in the shadows of the book room, as the windows are at the end of the aisles. Natural ventilation, also, may easily be effected by allowing a direct and straight current of air to pass from the windows of the book room through the aisles into the interior of the building and out through its windows and entrance doors. Finally, the view of the open aisles between the rows of cases, exhibiting the perspective lines of the books, is far more impressive in its clearness, contrast, and variety than a well-filled bookcase which hides everything else in the room—depth, aisles, and bookcases, from view.

Catholic Literature

The Sacred Heart Review, a weekly journal published in Boston, and owned by the Catholic clergy of New England, is giving a series of articles on Catholic books in public libraries which may be of interest to librarians. A list of the books found in the libraries in New England is given and a large number specified as desirable for library purposes. A recent article gives an account of the Catholic books in the Salem public library, which has a good collection of them.

The Place of the Library in Educational Work*

Frank A. Manny, Supervising principal Indianapolis schools

In presenting a subject of this nature I should feel much more at ease in a meeting of teachers than I do among librarians, for all that I can say has been treated so often in the library publications that it seems unnecessary to repeat it here. It cannot be said, however, that the same is true of the school press. During last year it was a part of my duty to read each week from forty to fifty educational periodicals, and among my observations therein nothing impressed me more than the dearth of material upon this very important phase of educational work, the library.

A very pertinent question referring to this subject is, What is the real scope of education? I take it for granted that the term is used in a very broad sense, and that we have in mind the same thought that Bulwer-Lytton had many years ago when he pointed out the futility of educating children while no attempt was made to reach the parents. Many efforts are put forth to make each period of life mean more than any that has gone before, and the educational work of a community must include them all. It would be a pleasant task to discuss the relation of the library to all these—the settlements, the clubs, the press, and all forms of extension work, but as I am a schoolman I will confine myself to its relation to a narrower and yet a very broad field, the school.

The dependence of the school upon the library is very evident. Modern education is making it clear to us that the purpose of the school is to work over the material gathered and organized by the past in such a way that the results of this elaboration shall be of the greatest service to the individual and to society. A glance at the past history of society shows very clearly the relation of these two institutions. The line over which the animal passed be-

fore he became subject to formal education was that which marks the beginning of articulate speech, and that was a prediction that libraries were to come. The formal school puts in an appearance about the time the phonetic alphabet comes into use, and that was unquestionably the first great advance toward the library as we know it today. The modern school became possible when the arrival of the printing press put in form the materials of the modern library. It is not strange that, dependent as it has been upon the process just stated, the school has become too subservient to the book, which has become too exclusively the tool of education. No one rejoices more than I do at the reaction against this, but teachers must realize that to have a wider range of tools they must know not less but more of books and their use. The new movement in the school cannot accomplish all that it should without the aid of the new library movement.

I have often felt the need of a term which should express the results of a working knowledge of library methods—whatever we may call this, it is something without which we cannot enter into the larger field which opens out before us as teachers, but must remain, as we too often are, slaves to the book. Just as we have spelling by means of which we use letters to the best advantage, and grammar and rhetoric which enable us to use words economically in the larger units of expression, so there is need of this other study, which will give us power in using libraries and their contents.

Considerable has been said this morning about the present needs in library lines in Indiana. I am very much in sympathy with any efforts to better organize this work, because I have reason to know something of the needs of the state. The old township library has been referred to; while now it is practically a dead letter there was a time when it did me a real service. I was then living in a city of several thousand inhabitants, but which only this year has been able to open a public library.

*An address delivered before the Indiana library association.

I had read out our own books and by attending several Sunday schools had found many more; when these were exhausted I went to work in a bookstore, and was reading Mrs Holmes very industriously by the yard when by chance one day I stumbled upon the remains of the old township library, and there I found sheep-bound editions of Hildreth's history, Johnson's Rasselas, and other works of like nature, which helped me out. When I went from these surroundings to the university I found for the first time a large library fairly well organized. My experience in office work caused the methods used to appeal to me, and I naturally expected that those who had come up in the midst of such surroundings would have a great advantage over me in making use of the library. This did not prove to be the case; and after considerable experience with college and high-school students I am obliged to confess that it is the exception to find one of them who knows more about the use of a library than he has picked up incidentally.

I think it is no exaggeration to say that if one-third of the time now wasted by pupils in trying to do reference work were spent in teaching them a few of the simplest fundamental principles of library methods the results of their work would be greatly increased. In one high school of which I had charge this work was made as far as possible a part of their English course and was required of the pupils. The results more than justified the expenditure of time in increased power to work, and at the same time the material outcome in organized material for use in classes repaid me for the time spent. In addition to this, one evening each week was spent at the library for work with volunteers. After I left this was continued by one of the teachers, who met pupils there on Saturday mornings. The authorities, with limited quarters, gave the use of a small room for this purpose. Looking back on the days spent in that city I feel that some of the best work done centered in these hours.

To accomplish anything definite in

this direction we must have the teachers trained, and the most can be done when they receive training on this line at the normal schools. I am glad to see that some of the normals are doing something, but they cannot go very far until the demand is more definitely stated. I cannot see why in cities which practically control their own examination systems an option cannot be given of a test on this work in place of some of the high-school-information subjects now required. No single advance can mean more than one which will give intelligent guidance to the reading of children. The need of this is very evident to anyone who has taken the time to examine the lists handed in by the children at the delivery desk of any of our libraries, and who has talked with children about their reading.

The establishment of branch libraries is contributing to this end. Several of the teachers in this city are coöperating with the librarian, and are finding that their schools are greatly helped by the effort. In one of the schools the pupils have been divided into groups based upon their present interests, and an attempt is made to use these interests to further the pupil's acquaintance with desirable literature, and by encouraging reading aloud to extend the results of his reading.

Another means by which this end can be secured is to bring the work of the Sunday schools under the influence of the public library. I am very glad to see that in at least one city this has been done by making several of the Sunday school libraries branches of the city library. Why this has not been done before it is not easy to tell. The economical side of this scheme should appeal to the small treasuries of these organizations, and the advantage of assistance in selection by one trained in the use of catalogs certainly should appeal to the distracted committee, which too often in sheer desperation buys \$1000-prize stories by the foot. If, too, some of the schools which are struggling with the question of what is the real function of the Sunday school

would undertake while they are trying to answer this question to direct the reading of their children, some advance would be made. When I was at Chautauqua a year ago, the name given there to the children's meeting on Sunday was significant—the reunion of the clubs. The opportunities of the Sunday school, with its close contact of the members of small groups, are such as we find almost nowhere else ready to hand.

The present tendency to bring all the library forces of a community under a common intelligent head and then to branch out as widely as possible offers much encouragement to the educational forces of the country. At present the chief defect is, physiologically speaking, in the circulatory system, but in the movement from the old passive library to the new active library this will soon be remedied. The great need now is to make the most of all opportunities to advance the common interests of such related institutions as the library and the school. There is much common ground which all of us need to study more. I have already spoken of the little attention given to this subject by the educational press. I have just learned that the *Inland Educator*, of Terre Haute, is to give, beginning with its February issue, a column to library matters under the direction of our state librarian. Indiana leads off, and I hope that other states will follow. There is room for missionary work in the teachers' association meetings. While old, threadbare subjects are being discussed this very vital subject is scarcely mentioned. I have served on program committees enough to know that they are ready for good suggestions whenever these are offered. One of the most profitable meetings of the Indianapolis pedagogical society this year was given to this subject, and as an outcome of this meeting a committee is now working with the librarian in the preparation of evaluation cards and the organization of other material of especial value to teachers. In the same way much can be done through such

organizations as mothers' meetings, women's clubs and councils. If the library will but reach out and relate itself to the other educational forces of a community it can become in a sense a brain for the society to which it belongs—a clearing house in which we may all make our exchanges.

The Two-book System Again

EDITOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

In your December number, Archibald Clarke of London, referring to a previous statement that the two-book system was first suggested by Charles K. Bolton in 1894, says: It is a small matter, but, as a lover of historical accuracy, I should like to call your attention to the fact that the same thing was proposed and strongly urged by Mr. MacAlister at the meeting of the library association held in Aberdeen in September, 1893.

As I am another lover of historical accuracy will you permit me to call his attention to the fact that the two-book system, two cards, one, No Fiction, was introduced into the Peoria public library by my predecessor, Fred J. Soldan, at least as early as March, 1890—we have sample blanks of that date preserved in our scrap book—and that Mr Bolton, then just entering on his new duties at Brookline, got the idea as he wrote me, from my report of June, 1893, where it is mentioned.

It now remains for some third lover of historical accuracy to show who introduced the system before Mr Soldan did. Mr Soldan died in November, 1891, one of the foremost librarians in our country at the time, and I have no reason to doubt that the idea was original with him.

Mr Bolton certainly deserves credit for his quick discernment of the value of the system, and for giving it a more extended publicity.

Yours respectfully,
E. S. WILLCOX.

Public Library,
Peoria, Ill.

Catalog Cards for Current Periodicals

Five of the large libraries in the country have had under discussion for some time the plan of issuing printed catalog cards for articles in current periodicals and society publications, and the work has finally been launched.

Harvard and Columbia universities, Boston and New York public libraries, and the John Crerar library of Chicago have together selected the publications to be included in the list, and will divide among them the work of cataloging, sending the manuscripts to the publishing section by the A. L. A. to be printed for their own use first, and for the benefit of other libraries which may desire them. While no attempt has been made to cover all the ground, the list of publications includes the works of the most important learned societies of the world, and while others will undoubtedly be added later, the tentative list contains periodicals relating to sociology and political science, anthropology, and ethnology, archaeology, philology, Oriental studies, geography, history, philosophy, as well as the publications of the Smithsonian and the United States geological survey.

The cards will be the medium weight L. B. stock and of postal size, but printed so that a card may be cut down to the index size.

The five libraries named above have subscribed for complete sets of all cards printed. Five additional subscribers would place the work on a firm basis.

The Publishing Section, in order to make the work as widely useful as possible, desires to obtain additional subscribers either for complete sets or for the cards for specified periodicals. Two copies of each card will be furnished, one to serve for an author, the other for a subject entry, but any subscriber may order a larger number of cards sent at but slight additional cost. The price at which the cards can be furnished depends very largely on the number of subscribers, but the price will be the lowest possible as the Pub-

lishing section takes up this work as it does all its work, in behalf of the libraries, and not as a commercial venture.

But a very few of the periodicals indexed are to be found in Poole, so there is no duplication of that work.

The total number of titles on the list will be about 3,000 a year, and include for the most part those which the libraries interested are now analyzing. Two or three of the larger libraries outside those mentioned have already expressed their intention to subscribe for the complete sets of cards. No extra sets will be printed, so it will not be possible to get back numbers later.

Periodicals for the Staff

EDITOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

The Buffalo public library is making an experiment for the education of its staff which I have not seen described, though it may have been tried elsewhere. Extra copies of the following list of professional and literary papers are taken: The Bookman, Critic, Library, Library Journal, Literary News, Nation, Outlook, Pratt Institute Monthly, Public Libraries, Publishers' Weekly, and St Louis Public Library Magazine. Each number as it comes is covered with tag board, the name of the periodical being written on the side. An ordinary book slip is also prepared for each number and the file of periodicals put in charge of one of the catalogers. The collection forms a special circulating library for the whole staff. No card is required to draw a number, the name of the member of the staff and the date being simply written on the book slip. The superintendent calls attention to any article or item of special interest which he observes by a note on the outside cover. Interesting articles on matters of library, policy, economy or opportunity in other periodicals go into the collection as well as pamphlets and lists so that they may reach the whole staff. I am satisfied that the cost of the experiment is more than repaid by the increased efficiency of the staff.

Yours sincerely,
THERESA ELMENDORF.

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PUBLIC LIBRARIES does not appear in August nor September, and to numbers constitute a volume.

SENATE bill 2842, introduced by Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, to improve the methods of printing and binding the public documents of the United States, is one to which every librarian can give his hearty support. It provides simple and effective rules for the binding, the number to be issued, the naming of volumes, the preparation of the index, and the distribution of the government publications. Much of the verbiage and consequent confusion of former document bills is eliminated from this, and one can really get a definite idea from it of a systematic plan in dealing with the question.

THE bill in the United States House of representatives, changing the name of the Congressional library to the National library, and naming the librarian thereof Director, has been favorably reported from the committee. It is hoped that the measure will be successful and this magnificent collection and building will receive a name more fitting its dignity and making it more distinctly appeal to all the people of the country.

J. N. LARNED returned to Buffalo in December after a delightful sojourn in

England, which brings him home strengthened and refreshed for new labors. Our readers will rejoice to hear that he accepts the post of editor-in-chief for the A. L. A.'s projected bibliography of American history. During February he will begin enlisting a staff of contributors from among leading authorities, each adding to his titles short descriptive and critical notes; the whole comprising the selection of about a thousand works. It is hoped that in addition to the issue in book form, these titles and notes may also appear on catalog cards for direct use by readers. So marked is the growth of interest year by year in American history, both in our libraries and schools, that wide and hearty acceptance will greet Mr Larned's guide. His services are a free and very considerable gift to the A. L. A.

It is a matter of congratulation that some of the leading senators have recognized the absurdity of the present situation regarding the public documents library and are moving to secure its removal to the Congressional library where it belongs. The nation has abundant empty shelving in its new library building, fireproof and convenient, and in every way the best possible. It is renting rooms in the post-office building where the property is in danger and where everything is less convenient and desirable, and separating the documents library from the rest of the books of the nation. If the proposed change is carried out, it will not only save money and give better quarters for the documents library, but it will lead to the treatment of the staff as a part of an educational institution and not, like so many members of the great government printing office, subject to discharge at the whim of political heads changed with each fluctuation of politics. It is seldom that all the arguments are on one side, but in this case economy, convenience, and needed protection would all be secured by making the public documents library a division of the national collection.

ONE of the hopeful signs of progress in the library world is the coming closer together of librarians and architects who furnish designs for library buildings. It is within the memory of most of the active librarians that the architect planned a library building as an ornament for the landscape, and regarded with scorn and derision any suggestions from the librarian as to what he should like to have for his library purposes. It will also be remembered that the librarian often insisted, in violation of all feasibility or convenience, that a certain thing should be in a certain place, though it would be much better for many reasons to have it elsewhere. These conditions have greatly changed, and the persons interested in the work of planning a library from both the architectural and library sides confer and discuss reasonably the advantages which lie in one or the other arrangement. Notable instances of this are seen in the work of planning the new library buildings in New York and Newark. The designs chosen in each case were selected because they more nearly suited the plans of the librarians than any others. Perfect harmony and coöperation have existed from the first inception among the librarians, trustees, and architects interested in each of the two institutions. The same condition of affairs existed in preparing the plans for the Chicago public library building, and its continuance in the cases of these two other large libraries promises future good for library architecture. Instead of, as was formerly the case, the architect saying to the librarian, I will build this building to suit my ideas, and you shall fit yourself into it, he now says, Tell me what you require and I will do my best to furnish it to you, and at the same time plan for architectural beauty. The librarian presents his plans and answers, That is what I want, as far as it does not conflict with the laws of construction and convenience.

The result can but lead to a better class of library buildings than has appeared up to this time.

It seems a little strange that a question arose as to the succession to the office of president of the American Library Association. The very fact that the association elects three vice presidents would seem to point to the conclusion that there should be no question about it except at election time. The assembly at Philadelphia decided by ballot that Mr Hayes should be first, Miss James second, and Mr Crunden third vice president. What was this for except to provide against just such an emergency as has arisen? Twice before has the office of president been vacated. The first time it occurred, it is true, the executive board elected to the office of president a member of the association who was not a vice president, but solely because it was the occasion of the trip of the A. L. A. to the Pacific coast, and the men who held the several vice presidencies announced to the executive board that it was highly improbable that they would attend the California meeting. In the second instance of a vacancy occurring, Mr Fletcher, then first vice president, as Mr Hayes is now, filled the office of president until his successor was elected by the association. In view of the prevailing custom in such matters in all well-regulated associations, and of the precedent already established in the A. L. A., in view of the standing and service to the profession of the duly elected vice presidents, we venture to question the wisdom of selecting another to fill out the term of Dr Winsor. We have the greatest respect for Mr Putnam; he will doubtless prove a valuable officer of the association, and personally we should have no preference over him for the place of highest honor in the A. L. A.; but the question has arisen whether the executive board in taking this action used good judgment or a correct policy in thus setting aside the expressed will of a large majority of the association in convention assembled.

In the absence of any good reason for this action, we think a mistake has been made entailing consequences which on the face of the matter seem unnecessary.

A. L. A. Meeting for 1898

The local committee at Jamestown has sent out a most attractive first greeting to the members of the A. L. A. in the form of a desk calendar for the first six months of 1898, with the dates of the meeting marked as red letter days. The following interesting facts about the time and place of meeting are also given.

Lake Chautauqua Conference, 1898

Some points of information

The twentieth annual conference of the A. L. A. will be held this year in a locality new to many of its members, and the following facts of information are volunteered by the local committee, by whom all inquiries will be gladly answered.

Date

The conference has been definitely fixed for the week commencing July 4 by the Executive board of the A. L. A., and the post conference will continue through the following week. It is urged that all members arrange to arrive on Saturday, July 2, and remain until Monday, July 11, thus giving at least nine days together at headquarters.

The meeting place

The meeting place selected is Lakewood, on Chautauqua lake, in Chautauqua county, New York state, and the headquarters will be established in the hotel Waldmere, which with the Kent house (under the same management), will doubtless entertain a majority of the members.

Lakewood is five miles from Jamestown, a city of 30,000 inhabitants, and is really one of its suburbs, being connected with the city by trolley and steam cars and by steamboat lines. Lakewood is 10 miles from the famous "Chautauqua Assembly" grounds with hourly connections by boat.

Jamestown and Lakewood are on the main line of the Erie railroad and are about 430 miles from New York city, 70 miles southwest of Buffalo, and are in direct connection with these points and Pittsburg, Cleveland, Chicago, Cin-

cinnati, and all other points that are reached by the Erie or Central systems. Through connections with the latter system are made at Buffalo, Dunkirk, and Brocton, to Jamestown or Lakewood. They are thus easy and convenient of access from all sections.

The hotels

The Kent and Waldmere, large and elegantly appointed hotels, will doubtless care for all the members, but numerous smaller hotels and boarding houses furnish accommodations for any possible number of visitors. The Waldmere has been selected for headquarters, furnishing as it does an admirable assembly hall and adjoining rooms for committees and exhibits. Both the Kent and Waldmere have light, airy, and spacious sleeping rooms, the windows of which open upon extended and beautiful views of lake and hillside. An excellent orchestra at each hotel is a feature of their attractions.

The Chautauqua region

Lake Chautauqua is 1300 feet above tide water and 700 feet above Lake Erie from which it is distant only seven miles. It lies in a beautiful valley which affords at all points charming views of picturesque wooded slopes and tilled farms, in the midst of which are the blue waters of the lake. Excellent fishing is afforded, and sailing and rowing are popular forms of amusement. Numerous steamers afford access at convenient hours to all points on the lake. The days are invigorating, the nights are cool, and the region is an ideal summer resort.

Entertainment for the A. L. A.

The entertainment proffered by the local committee will be in the form of steamboat excursions, picnics and trolley rides, including a visit to Jamestown, and will not be at all in the line of the formal and conventional. It is hoped that the hospitality extended will be as acceptable to the visitors as it will be cheerfully rendered by the hosts.

The Chautauqua meetings

One feature of the meeting will be a

special library day at the assembly grounds. The chancellor, Bishop Vincent, will welcome the members, and a special program will be presented. It is hoped the members will thus come into a better understanding of the methods, purposes, and extent of the great educational movement known as the Chautauqua idea.

Post conference rest—A proposition

With the proposition that the conference shall extend from July 2 to 11, it is also suggested by the local committee for the consideration of all A. L. A. members, that the week of July 11 be set aside for a post conference rest, instead of a post conference trip.

The lake is so attractive, especially during the month of July, that it will be a delight for all to remain another week; short excursions can be planned to Buffalo and Niagara; country drives, boating, and the Chautauqua assembly will make a week pass quickly and afford to all a genuine rest. What do the members think of this plan?

Full information regarding all rates, traveling, and hotel arrangements, etc., will be furnished in due time.

Special information may at any time be obtained by addressing the local committee at Jamestown, N. Y.

MARY EMOGENE HAZELTINE,
Chairman of Local Committee.

Books for a Sunday School Library

A plan which will likely prove effective in collecting a good library has been put in operation at the Hyde Park, Chicago, Sunday school. A list of 300 selected books has been prepared at the library of the University of Chicago and distributed, with the request that those receiving it will report at once to Mrs Z. A. Dixson the names of the books which they may be depended upon to furnish the library. The list is a very good one, and if adhered to will provide the Sunday school with a library very different from the usual ones found in such places.

Copyright Depositories

EDITOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

The Publishers' Weekly of December 18, contains an outline of a bill to increase the number of copies of a book required to be deposited with the librarian of congress in order to secure the copyright. As this bill has the backing of the Library association of California, will you kindly permit me to suggest that the executive committee of the American Library Association give the subject careful consideration and enlist the librarians of the country in favor of the bill which it may approve.

In this connection I take the liberty of observing that the library of congress is the only library which should receive copies of all books and other articles copyrighted. It is doubtful if any other library would be able fully to catalog, preserve in a proper manner, and make them fully available. Furthermore, it is the province of the libraries of each state to secure the best possible collection of books of its own residents or concerning the state itself. If the law can be framed so as to assist such libraries it will be an advantage.

Allow me to suggest that of the six copies of each book to be furnished the librarian of congress, one copy be sent to the State historical society and to at least one designated public library in the state of which the author is a resident, and that two other copies be distributed in accordance with the subject of the book. That these depositories be designated by the librarian of congress or the register of copyrights, after he is satisfied that such depository libraries are provided with competent catalogers, and have the resources as well as the disposition to care for the books in the interest of the public.

I believe that a provision somewhat on the above lines would command the support of the senators and representatives of the country, as the other bill would not, and would more fully advertise praiseworthy publications.

JOHN F. DAVIES.

Library Meetings

California—A joint meeting of the L. A. C. C. with the California teachers association was held Thursday afternoon, Dec. 30, 1897, with great success. President Rowell, of the L. A. C. C. presided, and the following papers were listened to with close attention by the large audience present: Desirability and utility of use of public libraries by school children, Jane S. Klink, San Francisco public schools; At what age should children begin to do supplementary reading and to refer to libraries, E. M. Cox, superintendent Santa Rosa public schools; How to induce and to direct children to use public collections of books, I. E. Dubois, Oakland public schools; M. V. Stewart, Oakland public schools; E. A. Stevens, Oakland public schools; F. R. Wickersham, Watsonville public schools; J. D. Sweeney, principal Tehama public schools; Attitude of public libraries toward schools, a, The children's room, George T. Clark, Free public library, San Francisco; b, Special privileges to teachers, F. J. Teggart, Stanford university; c, Library loans to schools, A. F. Sawyer, L. Toomy, Charles Hamm, Elisha Brooks, San Francisco free public library; Books loved by boys, M. L. Cheney; Books loved by girls, Maida Castelhun; Traveling libraries, W. P. Kimball.

There was much spirited discussion called out by the points developed in the papers, and good results may be expected from the frank statement of the needs of the school, and the earnest desire on the part of the library to meet and supply those needs.

Chicago—The Round table of the Chicago public library held its second meeting on the evening of January 12. About 40 of the assistants were present. A New England supper was served, after which the regular program was given as follows: The St. Louis public library, J. F. Phelan; Reviews of some books of the year, Miss Young; Quo Vadis, John A. Barron; Hugh Wynne, J. J. McCarthy; Recitation, Bessie

Goldberg; American literature—colonial period, Mary Woods. The meeting was a very profitable one, and besides all had a most enjoyable evening.

Chicago—The regular meeting of the library club was held Thursday evening, January 6, in the library of the Armour institute of technology. The members were pleasantly received by the librarian, Miss Van Vliet and her assistant, Miss Milner. The meeting was opened by Pres. Hopkins, and the routine business being disposed of the question of indorsing the movement of the Central California association for additional national copyright depositories was discussed. Several spoke of the disadvantages of such a plan as the one proposed. A motion to place the letter from the association on file prevailed.

The subject of the displacements in the superintendent of public document office at Washington came up for discussion, and vigorous protests from a number present were recorded. A motion to appoint a committee to take such action as seemed advisable was carried.

The president announced the appointment of the committee on statistics of libraries of Cook county, as ordered at the previous meeting, as follows: W. W. Bishop, chairman, Laura E. W. Benedict, Gertrude Forstall, Margaret A. Hardinge, A. G. S. Josephson, Caroline McIlvaine, A. E. Norris, C. B. Roden, H. T. Sudduth, Jessie Van Vliet, Irene Warren, Elma Warwick.

A. G. S. Josephson, of the John Crerar library, read an interesting and instructive paper on Library progress in Germany, giving an account of the first conference of German librarians held in Dresden last summer, and of the general status and growth of the library movement. Cornelia Marvin followed with an address on Home libraries in Chicago. Miss Marvin described the work done by the library class of Armour institute for several years past in placing small collections of juvenile in various homes in the humbler quarters of the city, in charge of a visitor

from the school, and allowing the books to circulate among the children of the neighborhood. Miss Van Vliet followed with an exposition of the practical workings of the plan, exhibiting one of these traveling libraries, and giving a number of amusing incidents from her own experience in the work. The president suggested the advisability of appointing a committee of the club to take charge of the work, which, owing to the lack of volunteers to accompany the books as visitors, has been neglected to some extent. After considerable discussion it was moved and carried to make the subject a special order for the next meeting of the club.

Illinois—The first annual meeting of the library section of the State teachers' association met in Springfield on Thursday afternoon, Dec. 30, 1897.

Owing to change in the place of meeting the assembly was late in being called to order. In the absence of Pres. James H. Norton (Lake View), C. F. Barbour presided.

W. W. Bishop (Evanston) resigned in November and Irene Warren (Chicago) filled his place as secretary. Reports on character and condition of school libraries were given by S. B. Hursh, Sterling; E. A. Gastman, Decatur; Laura B. Dana, Kewanee; J. C. Collins, Springfield; and M. A. Whitney, Elgin.

Considerable interest and enthusiasm were shown so that the reports were given informally and time allowed for questions. A paper on Normal instruction in use of books was read by Ange Milner, librarian State normal school. A paper by Irene Warren, librarian Chicago normal school, on the same subject was not read for want of time. Florence Wilkinson, Hyde Park high school, read a paper on class-room instruction in the use of books.

The report on Illinois pupils' reading circle, by F. A. Kendall, was also omitted for lack of time. A short report of work in this line, undertaken by Eva L. Moore at Withers library (Bloomington), was read by the secretary.

The secretary presented a plan for a School library manual which was prepared by Mary T. Pierce, University of Illinois state library school. A motion was made and carried that the chair appoint a committee of three to investigate the work with a view to the preparation of a manual to be published by the library section. The committee appointed was Miss Sharp, director State library school, University of Illinois; F. A. Kendall, secretary and manager Illinois pupils' reading circle; Chas. McMurry, State normal school.

The following officers were appointed for the ensuing year: President, O. F. Barbour, Rockford; vice president, Ange Milner, Illinois state normal; secretary, Irene Warren, Chicago normal school. Executive committee: N. A. Whitney, Elgin; J. S. Ray, principal John Crerar school, Chicago; Florence Wilkinson, Hyde Park high school.

IRENE WARREN, Sec.

Indiana.—The sixth annual meeting of the Library association of Indiana met in Indianapolis, Dec. 28-29, 1897. A special effort had been made to provide an interesting program and resulted in a larger attendance of people interested in libraries, other than librarians, than ever before.

The meeting opened with a brief but very inspiring address from Gov. Mount who made a special plea for some plan of distribution of reading matter in the rural districts and promised his personal and official help in bringing it about. This was followed by the address of the president in which was outlined the work of the reading circles of the state, and the development of public libraries.

F. R. Cotton, assistant state superintendent of public instruction, gave an account of the development of the reading circles in the state, and said in them lay the only hope of culture for the country districts. He thought township libraries had been a failure, and even if revived under new conditions could not do the work so well as the schools could. This brought up

considerable discussion, but left a divided opinion on the subject.

The next topic was The plan of the library in educational work, by Prof. Manny, of Indianapolis, which was one of the best papers of the meeting. It was broad, sympathetic, and was moreover, an exposition of his own practice. An epitome of the paper is on another page.

In response to an invitation to address the association, State Superintendent Geeting extended his good wishes to the librarians in their work.

In the afternoon a very interesting and helpful paper on How to deal with public documents, was read by Ida D. Aikins. She advised the ordinary library to classify its documents with the other books on the same subject, and to give them out in preference, other things being equal, in order to familiarize the public with what the United States is doing in the various lines and departments.

Prof. Sandison, of Terre Haute, was to have given a trustee's view of library work, but was prevented from being present by illness. A question box brought up a very spirited discussion of several technical library questions.

At the end of the afternoon session a revised constitution was adopted by those present, which made several radical changes in the rules of the association.

At eight o'clock the usual reception was given by the Bowen-Merrill Co. Miss Ahern gave an account of the International conference and the Post conference tour through Great Britain.

Wednesday's session was opened by an address by Prof. G. L. Swiggett, of Purdue university, with a splendid paper on The library a school for literature. He made the points that the books which a child reads map his future. A librarian should at all times be accessible to his patrons and use every means at command to answer their needs. No book has a right to live nor will it ever be given a place in permanent literature, unless it has proven helpful to some one.

Quincy A. Myers, of Logansport, followed with an outline of the Responsibilities of a trustee to the library. He reviewed library legislation in Indiana and pointed out the weak places in the present law. Libraries should not depend on the bounty of any board except its own.

A telegram from Miss Hoagland to the association requesting the appointment of a committee to act with the union of clubs was on motion of Mr Cunningham referred to executive committee.

The officers elected were: President, J. C. Leach, public library, Kokomo; vice-president, Helen T. Guild, Scoville library, Oak Park, Ill.; secretary Albert Faurot, Rose polytechnic institute, Terre Haute; treasurer, Mrs Isabel McIlhennan, Indianapolis public library.

Massachusetts—The thirtieth meeting of the library club was held in Boston on Dec. 16, 1897. The morning session was devoted to a memorial of Justin Winsor.

A memorial paper by W: C. Lane and W: H. Tillinghast was read by Mr Lane. S. L. Whitney, of the Boston public library, contributed the paragraphs on Mr Winsor's administration of that library, and Prof. A. B. Hart, of Harvard, contributed the estimate of Mr Winsor's work as a historian.

The paper was followed with remarks by Hon. Mellen Chamberlain, and the reading of W: E. Foster's article in the Providence public library bulletin on Mr Winsor.

The afternoon session was a continuation of the discussion of the books of the year, which was begun at the Medford meeting—Philosophy, by H. L. Koopman, Librarian of Brown university; Fine arts, by Otto Fleischner, of the Boston public library; Literature, by Mary Morrison; Juvenile literature, by Mrs Sheffield, of the Boston public library; Fiction, by Miss Chandler.

Mr Cutter was called upon to detail his method of reading with his youngest son, showing what can be done by

parents, utilizing a few moments every day.

In the opening address the president suggested as a possible way of continuing the Fiction lists that members should send to the secretary two weeks before each meeting a list of the novels which they had considered suitable for their libraries. From these lists a compilation might be made which would prove helpful. The suggestion was left to the executive board for consideration.

NINA E. BROWNE.

Nebraska—The third annual meeting of the State librarians' association was held in Lincoln, December 28, in the University library building. A large attendance of the librarians of the state was present. A number of papers of interest to librarians were read and a plan to hold a national assembly of librarians in Omaha during the exposition was considered. The unorganized effort which has been made up to this time along this line has met with encouragement, and it is thought that the prospect is good for securing the convention. A committee to take action in this direction was appointed, consisting of the following: Victor Rosewater, Edith Tobitt, and Margaret O'Brien.

An interesting paper was read by Librarian Barrett, of the State historical association, on the history of libraries in this state. Other papers were read upon The library as an educational factor and The children's department, both of which were followed by a free discussion. An account of the children's department of the Omaha public library was given by Miss Tobitt. The election of officers for the following year resulted in the election of Prof. Jillson, of Doane college, president; Edna Bullock, University library, first vice president; Margaret O'Brien, second vice president; Edith Tobitt, secretary; Mrs Abell, of Beatrice, treasurer.

Pennsylvania—The December meeting of the library club was held by invitation of J. G. Barnwell in the rooms of the Library company of Philadelphia

Dec. 13, 1897. The meeting was well attended, and the principal topic of discussion was the usefulness and management of musical libraries in connection with free libraries. John Thomson took the chair, and after the reading of the minutes brought up the subject of a proposed joint meeting of the New Jersey and Pennsylvania library clubs, which led to a lively discussion. The proposition was cordially approved, and Mr Thomson was requested to arrange with F. P. Hill all the details so as to bring them before the meeting to be held in February. The first speaker was Philip H. Goepf, the well-known writer on musical subjects. He gave a most attractive address, and made a special point of the importance of having a musical library in connection with every free library, but insisted that in selecting books and scores none but the later or even latest theoretical works and none but the most approved and best reputed scores should be added. In selecting a musical library he contended that quality and not quantity was the most important point. A discussion ensued as to the lending of musical scores, and it seemed the general opinion that it would be impossible to make the musical library of any substantial or practical value unless liberal conditions were made by which students could obtain the use of scores for study in the quiet of their own homes.

Opinions seemed almost equally divided as to the advisability or otherwise of having a piano or other instrument in a padded room so that students could make use of it under strict supervision. The chairman then read communications from Mr Foster, of Providence, Mr Bardwell, of the Brooklyn library, Mr Putnam, of the Boston public library, Mr Edmands, of the Mercantile library of Philadelphia, and Mr Bolton, of Brookline, Mass., dealing with the several questions which had been proposed for discussion. Mr Warrington took a different view from the preceding speakers on several points, and opened up a very interesting dis-

cussion on the methods of classifying musical books; but inasmuch as Mr Warrington's own arrangement was a strictly chronological one, it seemed that his method would be unsuitable for a free library. At the conclusion of the discussion it was resolved to cast the several papers which had been contributed during the evening into the form of an occasional paper to be published by the club. The matter was referred to the chairman with power to act. Votes of thanks were extended to Mr Barnwell and the Library company of Philadelphia for their kindness and to Mr Goepp for his enjoyable paper.

Wisconsin—A meeting in the interest of public libraries was held at Oshkosh, Wis., January 28-29. The principal topics under discussion were: What a library does for the child, the club woman, the working man, and the community at large, Traveling libraries, and Libraries and schools.

A Library Conference

A call signed by the principal librarians of Evanston and Chicago has been sent out for a library conference to be held at Evanston, Ill., in the Orrington Lunt library of the Northwestern university, Feb. 21-22, 1898. The call is directed to those interested in library work in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa.

There will be section meetings for public library workers and college, school, and reference librarians.

The programs have not been fully made up at this writing, but the subjects to be discussed in the college section are: The problem of the library in a preparatory school; The new card index to periodicals undertaken by the Publishing Section of the A. L. A.; Collections of works by alumni and faculties; Prospectus for a coöperative list of American dissertations for the doctorate; The care of college catalogs.

In the public library section addresses have been promised by L. E. Stearns on How to organize public libraries in small towns; Dr E. A. Birge,

The two-book system. Dr G. E. Wire will give instruction on library work to beginners who desire it, with the material at hand in the Evanston libraries. There will be an address on Monday evening followed by an informal reception.

Tuesday will be taken up with reports on State aid to traveling libraries by the librarians of the states supporting such; discussion of the library laws of the states included. J. D. S. Ensign, of Minnesota, will give the main address, and the discussion will be led by F. A. Hutchins, of Wisconsin.

Tuesday afternoon will be given to the assistants in libraries and the program will be entirely in their hands. There will be a question box and a report on notes and news.

The committee in charge, W. W. Bishop, chairman, is making every effort to secure a large attendance and provide a pleasant and profitable time for all who will attend.

An Appraiser-in-Chief

"We change our skies but not our minds." In a recent journey through Italy, although Naples, Siena, and Rome are distant enough from the immediate scenes of A. L. A. activity, it was nevertheless impossible for me to forget some phases of that activity which I have had at heart for years. It wasn't in any of the imposing book-museums of Milan, Venice, or Florence that my thoughts reverted to the old theme of "appraisal," to the necessity growing clearer every year that literature is a sea only to be successfully braved with pilot, chart, and compass. It was within the red lids of Mr Baedeker's incomparable little manuals that I found light for paths all too far from sunny Italy. Was there ever a model, such a model of an "appraiser" at his best as this Mr Baedeker? Mark well his strong points:

1. He is consecutive; towns and cities—their palaces, temples, and galleries are linked into the order in which they can be viewed with the most gain and the least outlay of time and trouble.

2. He tells us not only what to see but what to avoid. It is much to have finger-posts directing us to the finest landscapes and the masterpieces of art; it is quite as helpful to display danger-signals at alluring pit-falls of fraud, false pretence, and imposition.

3. Invitation and warning are both drawn from the personal observation of contributors of sense, truthfulness, and judgment. Rhetoric is omitted. On the threshold of St. Peter's you learn that it is "the largest church in Christendom."

4. He knows that praise is overdone, so he is a miser in praise. Where fault must be found, he has consideration as well as candor. How neat he spreads his whacks at the inns of Verona and Orvieto!

5. By issuing new editions at short intervals he keeps his facts as well up to date as he can. Just criticisms are welcomed and invariably embodied in the next revision of the text.

6. He carries condensation to the point that suggests his having every page telegraphed to Leipsic at full rates.

7. He refuses advertisements or other favors. To win a kind word it must be earned; there is no other way to get it. Hence a constant and inexorable influence for good on railroad and hotel managers, and even stage drivers.

8. He recognizes his limits as a guide-writer, but he doesn't do so in a hide-bound way. He gives the briefest historical outlines of famous regions, adds where you may find them set forth at length, and mentions the best works of travel, or of gossipy description, that you may find refreshing as a supplement to his own meaty food.

In short, it is scarcely possible to imagine a traveler so wise, so experienced, so mature in his judgment of scenery and art, as not to derive both gain and pleasure from the conscientious aid of Mr Baedeker. Would, O would that he could join our publishing section and give us a hand with "the appraisal of literature!"

GEORGE ILES.

Library Schools

Pratt institute library school

The second term opened with the full complement of students, all having successfully passed the examination at the end of the first term.

The following subjects have been assigned for bibliographies or finding lists to be worked up in connection with the reference work of this term: Gold discoveries, William the Second, of Germany, Sunday opening, Annexation of Hawaii, Contract labor system, Home life in the American colonies, Decadents, Eistedfods, Electricity for boys, Astronomy for boys, Dialogues and plays for children, Animal stories and illustrations, Classified list of stories for girls from 12 to 16, France in Africa, Italy in Africa, Poems on historical events. Subjects that will be of use in the reference department and the children's room have been selected.

A new series of lectures on the history of book making, including manuscripts, incunabula, printing, book binding, etc., has been introduced into the course this term.

Alma M. Russell, class of '97, has been engaged to catalog and classify the Legislative library of the province of British Columbia, at Victoria, B. C.

Eleanor A. Angell, class of '96, has been appointed as assistant in the library of the American society of civil engineers.

Charles E. Wright, class of '97, is engaged as assistant in the library department of the Boston Book Company.

Margaret E. Zimmerman, class of '97, is engaged in preparing a finding list for the Racine (Wis.) public library.

Illinois State library school

The library club met January 10, the subject for the evening being Fad periodicals. Interesting papers were presented on the fad periodicals and their artists, and illustrated by the collection of Mr Faxon, of the Boston Book Co., loaned to the library for the occasion. The collection was afterward exhibited in the library until January 15.

Notes by the Way

In some places the librarian seems to be considered as a kind of superior janitor or caretaker, and an attempt is made to so place his office that he can sit and watch the entrance hall and note each person entering the building. This is a wrong conception of a librarian's duties, and has come down to us from the dark ages, when it was thought a librarian's chief work was to preserve his books from the assaults of the would-be readers, instead of acting as a key to unlock the stores of his library.—*F. J. Burgoyne.*

Books cause the arctics and the tropics, the mountains and hills, all the generations with their woes and wars, their achievements for liberty and religion, to pass before the mind for instruction and delight, and when books have made men contemporaneous with Socrates and Cicero, with Emerson and Lowell, when they have made man a citizen of every clime and country, they go on to add advantages still more signal.—*N. D. Hillis.*

When binding in leather, avoid both very light shades, which are most expensive and will not keep clean, and very dark, specially black and very dark green, which may be tender. Skins which are failures in lighter shades are often re-dyed black, and this tends to rot the leather. The best colors are the lighter browns, red, light greens, olive, blue, and maroon.—*D. V. R. Johnston.*

A library is a business institution, and must keep a record of its transactions. It would be as absurd to keep no accounts in order to please the people and send them away sooner, as it would be to enter no charges against the customers of a shop. The tangle that its affairs would soon find themselves in would be infinitely more troublesome to the borrower than the short time spent in waiting while the library recorded a few essential facts.—*M. W. Plummer.*

Questions and Answers.

Q. 7. What is a good covering for the floor of a small public library? Does carpet for the library floor receive general approval?

A. Inlaid linoleum is generally conceded to be the best covering for a library floor. It is noiseless, can be easily cleaned, and stands hard wear for a longer time than anything else. Cork carpet is also a favorite with libraries, but it cannot be washed as linoleum can. Brussels and all kinds of woollen carpets have no place in a library, on account of the impossibility of keeping them free from dust.

Q. 8. How may the corners of a book be protected so they will not break?

A. A book which has vellum corners has a protection against breakage if the piece of vellum is large enough.

Q. 9. What would you advise to be done with the pamphlets in a small library?

A. When enough pamphlets on a single subject have been gathered for a suitable volume, they should be bound, shelved, and treated like any other book. Single pamphlets may be placed in manilla covers and classed with the books on the same subject. In any case, catalog them so that their contents will appear in the resources of the library.

Q. 10. Do all libraries of say 3000v. keep on file for use in the reading room the local daily papers? I think it a useless expenditure, as they are so very cheap and bring nobody but loafers to the library. Am I wrong?

A. H. J. Carr, in his paper on Fixtures, furniture, and fittings, in *World's library congress volume*, says: There is doubt if whether the function of the public library is more than to obtain and file away for permanent binding all local papers, without maintaining the average newspaper room in this age of cheap publications of that kind. The cheapness is an argument on the other side; also the loafers who are attracted first by the newspapers may be tempted to more helpful reading afterwards.

News from the Field

East

The Everett (Mass.) public library circulated 63,114v in 1897.

The reading room of the public library of Attleboro, Mass., has adopted Sunday opening.

The famous Bradford manuscripts have been placed finally in the state library of Massachusetts.

The Salem (Mass.) public library has passed its 100th birthday, and is doing better work today than ever before.

Mary E. Robbins, formerly of University of Nebraska library, will be married in the fall to Dr Neumann, of Lakeville, Conn.

W. A. Borden, librarian of the Lincolnton library of Yale college, has resigned his position to become librarian of the Young Men's institute, of New Haven.

Wayland, Mass., which has had a free library since 1847, has received \$28,000, and also a site for building a public library, by the will of W. G. Robie.

Myra F. Southworth, for 25 years librarian of Brockton, Mass., has resigned. J. G. Moulton for several years librarian of Quincy, Ill., has been elected to the vacancy.

The Gardiner (Me.) public library received \$2500 from Andrew Carnegie, which the citizens have supplemented with another \$2500 with which to make an addition to the library building.

The Boston public library has placed a collection of 6000 photographs in a cabinet with an adequate card catalog in the art department for the use of the public. This is the beginning of a collection which will finally number 20,000, and will be reproductions of famous architecture, buildings, paintings, works of art and views of cities.

W. C. Lane, librarian of the Boston Athenæum, has been elected librarian of Harvard University. Mr Lane grad-

uated from Harvard in 1881, and shortly afterwards entered the library under Mr Winsor. In 1887 he was made assistant librarian, and in 1893 resigned to become librarian of the Athenæum. He has been one of the most helpful members of the A. L. A., and has done valuable work as secretary of the publishing section since its organization.

Central Atlantic

The new public library of Brooklyn was opened with appropriate exercises, December 20.

Gregory B. Keen has been elected librarian of the Pennsylvania historical society to succeed the late F. D. Stone.

Maud R. Henderson, Armour '96 has been elected to the superintendency of the public catalog in the New York public library.

The report of circulation for the free library of Philadelphia, gives 1,672,042 books issued during the past year. The library now has 11 branches.

The public library of Utica (N. Y.) has received the New York Tribune from its founding in 1841 to 1872, a gift from Mrs. Mary Walker, of Utica.

The new public library of Meadville, Pa., was opened to the public on January 3, with 6,000 books free to its patrons. Susan McCracken will continue as librarian.

The people of Newark (N. Y.) have not accepted the offer of H. C. Rew to give land worth \$5,000 and \$10,000 to build a public library, provided the town raise \$10,000 to sustain it.

The public library of Reading, Pa., has been made free through the generosity of 21 citizens of the town, who subscribed \$10,500, and placed the institution entirely free from debt.

B. F. Newcomer gives \$50,000 for a library building, and E. W. Mealey gives a lot worth \$20,000 to Hagerstown, Md., on condition that the town raises \$20,000 for its equipment, and \$2,500 for the running expenses.

The annual report of the Baltimore

(Md.) public library shows 31,000v. on the shelves. During the past year Librarian McCreary has removed all duplicates, arranged the books in classes, and prepared a card catalog.

A large collection of public papers written by Jefferson were found stowed away in one of the small rooms in the old Congressional library quarters. It is supposed they were given to the library by John Randolph.

Mt. Vernon (N. Y.) public library is in a prosperous condition after its first year's work. The five trustees have each given \$100 to establish a fund to be invested and the proceeds applied to the book fund. It is hoped that others will contribute to this fund.

The Buffalo public library has issued a list of interesting books for boys and girls from 14 to 18 years old. The books were selected and annotated by Mrs. H. L. Elmendorf and Frances L. Rathbone. The list includes tales of adventure and history, biography, pure literature, novels, and popular scientific works. It cannot but prove helpful to the young people.

Central

Agnes L. Dwight is cataloging the Americana in Bishop Perry's private library at Davenport, Ia.

G. J. Diedericks has given \$5,000 in trust for a fund from which to start a library in Red Oak, Ia.

Dr G. E. Wire is classifying and cataloging the library of the Ohio state board of health at Columbus, O.

Coshocton (O.) library association has been formed for the purpose of maintaining a public library for the city.

The number of books drawn from the Detroit public library last year reached 1,000,000v. Only one book was not returned.

Almena R. De Puy, of Jackson, Mich., has been engaged to reorganize the library of Appleton, Wis., and make a card catalog for it.

Mary J. Jordan, of the Armour insti-

tute class of '97 (undergraduate), is librarian of the library of J. H. Kellogg, Battle Creek, Mich.

The Cleveland public library issued for home use during December, 1897, 81,273 books, a gain of 17,984 over the same month in 1896.

Mary L. Jones has resigned her position in the Illinois state library school. Maud Straight, Armour '96, has been elected to fill her place.

The association library of Bunker Hill, (Ill.) has been turned over to the city authorities, and will be maintained hereafter as a public library.

The public library of Des Moines, Ia., reports a circulation for 1897 of 151,629v.; use in reading room, 152,763v.; no. of books in the library, 25,000.

Johnson Brigham, of Des Moines, editor of the Midland Monthly, has been elected State librarian of Iowa, to succeed Mrs L. H. Cope, on May 1.

Evanston (Ill.) public library has received a gift of \$30,000 in addition to the \$10,000 already promised. The name of the giver is not made public.

Van Wert, O., has received the means for building a new public library with all modern appliances, by the will of the late J. S. Brumback, of Toledo, O.

The report of the Ishpeming (Mich.) library shows a stirring growth. The library contains over 6,000v., and has an average circulation of 900 a month.

The new public library building of Faribault, Minn., was opened to the public with appropriate exercises on December 31. The building cost \$30,000.

Public library, of St. Paul, Minn., reports books on shelves, 44,890; circulation, 263,258v; salaries, \$7,363. The library opened a children's room last year.

The Kenosha (Wis.) public library reports books in library 3163; circulation, 24,101v. The library has had an offer of \$500 from a friend, if the library association will raise \$1000 additional.

Col. John Lambert gave the city of Joliet, Ill., \$27,000 on Christmas day for a new library building. On New Year's day he added another gift of \$7000 for the same purpose.

A new library has been started in Greensburg, Ind. It is a subscription library at present, but it is hoped to make it a public library before long. Kittie Thomson is librarian.

The report of Mrs Oberholtzer, librarian of Sioux City, Iowa, shows a circulation of 55,231v. during the past year, with a store of 11,000v.; no. of books added, 1173; salaries, \$1297.

The Kansas City public library became absolutely free to the public January 1. The usual guarantor certificate will entitle anyone to draw books. The library now has 40,000v. on its shelves.

The Stevens' library association of Rushford, Minn., has received as a gift the building in which the library is housed. The society also received \$350 from the Methodist church of the place.

The library of the State university of Missouri has received 1000v. on chemistry and other scientific subjects, including bound periodicals in French and English. Many of the volumes are very rare.

The work of cataloging the Y. M. L., of Dubuque, Ia., which began in September, 1896, has been completed, and the library has now a complete card catalog, up to date, of all the material in its valuable collection.

Ottumwa, Ia., reports improvement in its public library arrangements and use, and is now confronted with the need for a library building. Some funds are already in hand for this purpose, but not sufficient to begin the work.

The young ladies of Lake City, (Minn.) have undertaken to start a public library and reading room. By subscriptions, donations, and entertainments they hope to have material enough to open the library in March.

The public library, of Minneapolis, (Minn.) has put in a linotype machine for the preparation of its catalog. The circulation of the library for 1897 reached 591,400v. A Library league will be organized among the young people.

Chicago public library has received a superb gift from Joseph Medill, who was mayor of Chicago when the public library was founded in 1872. The gift is the handsome, illustrated nine-volume copy of Boydell's imperial folio edition of Shakespeare.

The St Louis public library has just issued a comparative statement for 1896 and 1897. In 1896, 6337v. were added, 745,179v. circulated and \$46,206 was expended. In 1897, 13,400v. were added, 867,816v. circulated, and \$54,196 was expended.

A report from Milwaukee public library shows the home circulation for 1897 to have been 416,863v., an increase of nearly 74,000 over 1896. The largest number given out in one day was 2042v.; visitors to reading room, 98,287; school circulation, 87,631v.

The West Side library, the oldest and largest of the Cleveland branch libraries, has been moved into its new building. Special provision is made for children and for clubs and classes. This branch has 14,000v. of its own and may draw from the main library in addition.

Maud Straight, librarian of the State normal school, Oshkosh, Wis., has resigned her position to become reference librarian and teacher in the library school at the State university of Illinois. Marie A. Skinner of Lake Forest, Ill., has been elected to fill the position at Oshkosh.

Oshkosh, Wis., citizens are hard at work to raise \$30,000 before June 24 in order to secure the \$60,000 left to the public library on condition that a like sum be raised before the date specified. Through the kindness of Senator Sawyer the first \$30,000 is assured, and it is hoped to get the rest in time.

A beautiful new library was opened at Council Grove, Kan., on January 15, a large company was present, and a special program was rendered. Several of the clubs of the town made special donations of books pertaining to their work, and the library starts out under favorable conditions.

Cedar Rapids, Ia., has the largest and most complete Masonic library in the world. It is used by scholars from all parts of the world. The collection of this library has been the life work of T. S. Parvin, who has been in charge of it since 1838. There are 30,000v. relating to Masonry, many of which are not to be found elsewhere.

Northwestern university, Evanston, Ill., has received what is deemed the most complete collection of rare German literary works in existence. It was gathered by a private collector during a long life. The collection has been placed in the library as a gift from the Germania Mænnerchor. The university now has a collection of 8000 German books and manuscripts.

The traveling library is being introduced in Missouri under the auspices of the Federation of women's clubs of that state. The communities asking for books are charged for transportation only; they keep the library not longer than four months, unless a special library is desired for the pursuit of a special study. The 30 or 40 books comprising a library travel around as called for.

The report of the John Crerar library of Chicago, from the time of opening last April, to January 1, 1898, shows a very flattering growth. The accessions have been 18,257v., making 29,141v. in the library; periodicals, 1188; books drawn on call slips, 6377; periodicals, 3875; visitors to the stacks, 265. On the shelves of the reading room are some 1500v. of reference books, textbooks, and selections from the best scientific literature open to the public.

The public library of Michigan City, Ind., was opened to the public on Janu-

ary 3. The hours of issue are from 9.30 a. m. to 9 p. m. on week days. The reading room will be open on Sundays from 2 to 5 p. m. The daily circulation for January averages 142v. A children's room is fully patronized. A room for study classes will be opened shortly. The card catalog for 3000v. is about finished. The library is doing good work. Marilla W. Freeman, formerly of the Chicago university library, is librarian.

A lawsuit which has been hanging over the Willard library of Evansville, Ind., for two years has finally been settled in favor of the library. Willard Carpenter in 1876, after a family settlement of his property, gave \$300,000 to a board of trustees to erect and maintain a public library. As long as he lived he worked with this board. Twenty years after the gift was made, and 13 years after Mr Carpenter died, a daughter brought suit to recover the property on the plea of undue influence. The trial resulted in favor of the library on every question, both of fact and law.

A most interesting exhibition is now in progress at Case library, Cleveland. It is called The house beautiful, and is intended to show the resources of the library in the line of house architecture, furniture, and decorations.

A large space in the library is devoted to the exhibition, and the collection includes illustrations of the best examples of houses, both of the ancient and modern periods. There are Italian, Spanish, French, and English palaces, some beautiful interiors, particularly of English houses, and hundreds of plates illustrating the beautiful colonial period in this nation's architecture.

There is a profusion of books on every subject connected with the interior of the house and its furnishings, such as pottery and porcelain, stained glass, tapestry, carpets, furniture, miniatures, etc.

South

Pauline Hardin, of Covington, Ky., has been chosen by the Kentucky legis-

lature as state librarian of Kentucky for two years.

A bill appointing a library commission has been passed by the legislature of Georgia. The appointments will be made by the governor about the middle of February. No appropriation was given, so the work will be largely missionary for some time.

The public library at Marion, S. C., has received a gift of \$500 from C. A. Woods, supplemented by a gift of \$200 from H. C. Graham. Mr Wood has also expressed his intention to give \$300 a year to the library for three years, and Mr Graham will give \$100 a year for the same time.

West

The library at Colorado Springs, Col., reports an active year's work, though sadly hampered by the lack of funds.

Mrs Percy Ford, librarian of the Hearst library in Lead, S. D., has resigned her position and will remove to New York.

John Parsons for several years assistant to Mr Dana in the Denver public library has been chosen to succeed the latter as librarian.

The report of the Omaha public library shows no. of volumes in the library is 47,147; circulation, 212,825v.; reference room, 47,698v.

The Pioneer library of Salt Lake City, Utah, has been turned over to the city and moved into new and enlarged quarters. The city will hereafter support it as a public library.

The Butte (Mont.) public library has for several years on special days taken note of the books drawn in order to gain an idea of the development of the tastes of its patrons. The list this year shows mainly the same authors that were called for last year, though only seven books out of 172 last year and 209 this year are common to both lists.

Horton (Kan.) is to have a \$2,000 public library, maintained at the expense of the town. A union church was built in the early days of the town

with the understanding that when the different denominations secured homes of their own the union church should be sold and the proceeds invested in a library. The sale has been made.

The new fiction list of Denver public library contains some new features. There are about 1900 titles on the list, 700 of which are juvenile. It does not include all the fiction in the library, but only such as in the judgment of the authorities ought to be in the library. It is a linotype list and each volume is given a line with author, title, and call number. The repetition of the author's name, it is claimed, will make the list easier to consult, and it costs no more to print it by the linotype.

Pacific Coast.

A French library association has recently opened a library in San Francisco where all the books are in the French language.

Foreign

The Library Assistant is the name of a new publication which has just been started by the Library assistants' association in England. It will be issued monthly and will deal with library matters interesting to those engaged in the work.

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Library Bureau Department

The State library at Columbus, Ohio, has placed the L. B. steel stack in its public documents room where the collection of state documents are most used.

The public library of Logansport, Ind., has been fitted up with new card catalog cases and complete outfits for them and has put in the L. B. charging system.

The Louisiana State university has recently placed a 12 tray case in each of its experiment stations. These will contain the cards sent out by the government.

The public library at Cairo, Ill., is being reclassified on the Dewey, D. C., and a new L. B. 30-tray catalog case will be required to hold the card catalog which is being made.

The Bedford (Ind.) public library will begin its work on modern lines, and avoid rearrangement later. The library will be classified on the D. C. plan, with Cutter book numbers, and a card catalog will be prepared for the public at once.

The use of the reference department of the Indianapolis public library has grown to such an extent that the L. B. was called on to put in several sections of their steel stack to hold the necessary reference books. The art room also has been fitted up with more steel stacks.

The St Louis public library has ordered another L. B. 81-tray cabinet of special design and fitted with the L. B. new improved lock rod for their card catalog. This is the second of these cases in two years indicating a flattering growth in the library.

The new public library of Shelbyville, Ind., has been fitted up entirely by the Library Bureau. They have the latest improved steel stacks, a complete card catalog outfit, charging system and a card shelf list. The library

has 2000 books and starts out under promising conditions.

The public library of Omaha is preparing for an extension of its card catalog and has ordered two 60-tray cases to hold the cards. The material of the library has been thoroughly cataloged, and the cases on hand are outgrown. The reference room is being fitted up with six 12-ft. double L. B. steel stacks.

The public library of Michigan City, Ind., is now open to the public. Miss Freeman, who is the efficient librarian in charge, took with her on beginning her work last fall, a full outfit of L. B. supplies, card catalog cases, charging systems and material for giving quick and satisfactory service to her patrons.

Corinna, Me., new public library will soon be ready for use and when complete will be a worthy memorial of its generous donor, Levi M. Stewart, of Minneapolis, Minn. Mr Stewart placed a full order with the L. B. for the complete equipment of this library with the latest improved steel stacks, furniture, appliances and fixtures.

The Scoville institute, at Oak Park, Ill., has put in a number of new oak bookcases of the same design as the original fitting of the building, with specially designed roller cases for the storing of atlases and large folios. This work has been done by the Library Bureau, which will also design and make the tables and fittings for the new children's room which is shortly to be opened.

The new public library building of Rochester, Minn., has been finished and reflects great credit on the good judgment of the library board. The means at the command of the board have been used to the very best advantage, and the building and its arrangement are well fitted for library purposes.

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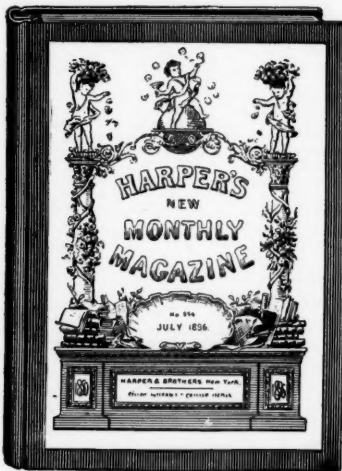
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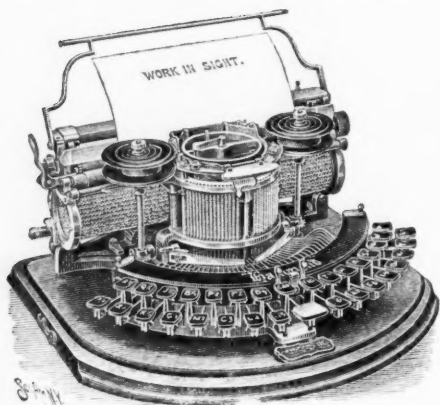
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